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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JESUS SARMIENTO and JUAN CHAVEZ,
 on behalf of themselves and all others
 similarly situated and on behalf of the general
 public,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

SEALY, INC. and SEALY MATTRESS
 MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LLC.,

Defendants.

Case No.:

CLASS ACTION

COMPLAINT

1. VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE § 510
 (FAILURE TO PAY OVERTIME-
 PAGA)
2. VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE §
 223 (PAYMENT OF SECRET
 WAGE- PAGA)
3. VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE §
 222 (WITHHOLDING OF WAGES -
 PAGA)
4. VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE §§
 201, 202, AND 203 (FAILURE TO
 PAY ALL WAGES DUE UPON
 TERMINATION - PAGA)
5. VIOLATION OF BUSINESS AND
 PROFESSIONS CODE §§ 17200 ET
 SEQ.
6. VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE §
 226(a) (NONCOMPLIANT WAGE
 STATEMENTS- PAGA)
7. VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE §
 923 (RETALIATION FOR
 ENGAGING IN CONCERTED
 ACTIVITY)
8. WRONGFUL TERMINATION IN
 VIOLATION OF PUBLIC POLICY

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

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4 Plaintiffs JESUS SARMIENTO (“Sarmiento”) and JUAN CHAVEZ (“Chavez”), collectively
5 (“Plaintiffs”), bring this Class Action Complaint against (1) SEALY, INC. (“Sealy, Inc.”), and 2)
6 SEALY MATTRESS MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LLC. (“Sealy Mattress”), collectively
7 (“Defendants”) for violations of the California Labor Code, California Business and Professions
8 Code, and common law wrongful termination in violation of public policy.
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10 **PARTIES**

11 1. Plaintiff Sarmiento was at all times relevant herein a resident of San Pablo, California
12 and an “employee” as defined by the Labor Code and applicable Wage Order(s) of the Industrial
13 Welfare Commission (“IWC”).

14 2. Plaintiff Chavez was at all times relevant herein a resident of San Pablo, California
15 and an “employee” as defined by the Labor Code and applicable Wage Order(s) of the Industrial
16 Welfare Commission (“IWC”).
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18 3. Defendant Sealy, Inc. is an Ohio Corporation with its principal office in Trinity, NC
19 and is an “employer” as defined by the Labor Code and applicable IWC Wage Order(s). Defendant
20 Sealy, Inc. manufactures and sells mattresses.

21 4. Defendant Sealy Mattress is a Delaware Limited Liability Corporation with its
22 principal office in Lexington, Kentucky and is an “employer” as defined by the Labor Code and
23 applicable IWC Wage Order(s). Plaintiffs are informed and believes that Defendant Sealy Mattress
24 manufactures mattresses.
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JURISDICTION

5. This Court has jurisdiction over the state law claims asserted here pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A), since 1) Plaintiffs are California citizens and Defendants are citizens of different states, 2) there are more than 100 putative plaintiff class members and 3) the amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000.

6. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in Contra Costa County, California.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

7. At all relevant times, Plaintiffs and Class Members were non-exempt employees of Defendant

8. Plaintiff Sarmiento was employed by Defendants from approximately July 2015 until May 26, 2017 at their mattress manufacturing facility in Richmond, California. While he was employed by Defendants, Sarmiento worked concurrently as a loader, taper or sewer with different responsibilities and each job was paid at a different hourly rate. Pursuant to Defendants' contract with Plaintiffs' union, Plaintiffs' hourly rate varied with the position Plaintiffs were assigned when they worked. When Sarmiento worked as a loader, he was responsible for loading mattresses into vehicle. At the end of his employment, Sarmiento was paid an hourly rate of \$17.55 when he performed duties as a loader. As a taper or a sewer, Sarmiento was responsible for using a tape edge machine to sew edges around mattresses. At the end of his employment, Sarmiento was paid an hourly rate of \$19.10 when he worked as a taper or a sewer. Defendants failed to pay Sarimento and other putative class members the higher hourly rates when required when they worked at positions that dictated a higher hourly rate.

1 9. Chavez was employed by Defendants from approximately December 2014 until May
2 5, 2017 and from approximately May 12, 2017 until June 7, 2017 at their manufacturing facility in
3 Richmond, California. During his employment with Defendants, Chavez worked as a line feeder and
4 he earned an hourly rate of \$17.55 an hour at the end of his employment.

5 10. During their employment, Plaintiffs worked shifts that exceeded twelve hours a day.
6 Defendants failed to pay and other putative class members and aggrieved employees overtime time
7 pay at twice their regular hourly rate when they worked more than twelve hours a day.
8

9 11. During their employment, since Defendants often paid Plaintiffs and other putative
10 class members and aggrieved employees at a lower regularly overtime rate than which they were
11 entitled, Defendants also paid them less overtime than was required when they worked over 8 hours a
12 day and forty hours a week.
13

14 12. During their employment, Plaintiffs and other putative class members and aggrieved
15 received wage statements that listed the name and address of their employer as Sealy Inc, 1 Office
16 Parkway Road, Trinity, NC 27370-9449. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, however, that the
17 correct name and address of their employer was Sealy Mattress Manufacturing Company, LLC, 1000
18 Tempur Way, Lexington, KY 40511.
19

20 13. During their employment, Sarmiento and other putative class members and aggrieved
21 employees received wage statements from Defendants that did not state the correct 1) hourly rate of
22 pay, 2) gross wages earned, and 3) net wages earned.
23

24 14. On or about about May 26, 2017, the management officials Defendants' Richmond,
25 CA plant held a town hall meeting of the Richmond, CA plant employees. Bernie Reyes, Senior
26 Human Resources Business Partner, and Patricia Gallardo, Director of Manufacturing Operations,
27 informed the employees that they had implemented a points systems as of May 1, 2017 whereby
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1 employees would be terminated if they received 16 points for various infractions. As Bernie Reyes
2 was explaining the point system, he made a rude sexual gesture to explain that the employees would be
3 terminated once they received 16 points.

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5 15. As the meeting was breaking up, Chavez asked Bernie Reyes that since the new points
6 system went into effect on May 1, 2017, why did management wait until May 26, 2017 to tell them
7 about the new system. In response, Bernie Reyes told the assembled crowd of the number of points
8 that Chavez had accrued and told Chavez and the assembled crowd that if they went back to the old
9 point system, it was guaranteed that Chavez would have been terminated. Chavez asked Bernie
10 Reyes what was up with Reyes doing rude sexual gestures that were unprofessional and disrespectful.
11 Reyes became hysterical and started yelling that Chavez was pointing at him and threatening him.
12 Sarmiento stepped between Reyes and Chavez and told Reyes that he needed to calm down, no one
13 was threatening him and that he needed to relax. Reyes became manic and attempted to aggravate
14 Chavez, who ignored Reyes. Sarmiento slightly touched Reyes's shirt and Reyes began shouting
15 "did you just touch me?, you know I can press charges for that!" Sarmiento told Reyes that if he
16 wanted people to listen to him and work with him, he needed to show them some respect and then he
17 might get some back. As Sarmiento was leaving for lunch, Patricia Gallardo told Sarmiento that she
18 hoped that he felt ok. Sarmiento responded that he did not feel ok, how could he feel ok. Sarmiento
19 then pointed to Reyes and told Gallardo "[t]hat's our new HR? I feel completely uncomfortable
20 working here anymore." In response Gallardo asked Sarmiento "[s]o why don't you just quit?"
21 Sarmiento then responded: "I am looking around but I don't have the privilege to just quit. I have
22 bills to pay. I don't get things handed to me and I need to work hard for them. And you know what, if
23 the company don't want to help and the union ain't helping us either, then I'm going to look for
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1 someone that will because I don't feel safe or comfortable here and if they need to investigate this
2 place, so be it."

3 16. After the May 26, 2017 encounter with Gallardo and Reyes, Sarmiento went to lunch.
4 As he was returning to work, Sarmiento became ill and vomited in his co-worker's car. Sarmiento
5 told his co-worker Lamar Hill that he was ill and that he needed to go home. Sarmiento asked Lamar
6 Hill to inform Sarmiento's supervisor, Juan Iniguez that Sarmiento had an emergency and had to go
7 home. At approximately 12:36 pm, Sarmiento attempted to call Juan Iniguez to explain what had
8 happened at lunch. Iniguez did not answer the phone and Sarmiento left a message. Sarmiento then
9 left a message for his union representative, Ulises Vergara. At 2:04 pm, Sarmiento called Iniguez
10 again, but Iniguez did not answer the phone. At 2:09 pm, Sarmiento received a call from Gallardo.
11 Gallardo informed Sarmiento that he had been terminated. When Sarmiento inquired as to the reason
12 for the termination, Gallardo responded that Sarmiento had been terminated for job abandonment.
13

14 17. Even though Sarmiento was terminated on May 26, 2017, he did not receive his final
15 pay check until after June 2, 2017. Moreover, the final wage statement that Sarmiento received from
16 Defendants failed to state: 1) the name and address of his employer, or 2) his regular or overtime rates
17 of pay. Since Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs, putative class members and aggrieved employees
18 all wages due to them, Defendants are liable for waiting time penalties pursuant to Labor Code § 203.
19

20 18. After the May 26, 2017, town hall meeting, Chavez was placed on administrative
21 leave. On or about June 7, 2017, Defendants terminated Chavez's employment. Chavez did not
22 receive his final wages until approximately June 16, 2017.
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26 **PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT ALLEGATIONS**
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1 19. The Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”), as set forth in
2 Labor Code section 2698 et seq., applies to Plaintiffs’ employment with Defendants.

3 20. Under Labor Code section 2699(a), any provision of the Labor Code which provides
4 for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency
5 (“LWDA”) for violations of the Labor Code may, as an alternative, be recovered through a civil
6 action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former
7 employees under the procedures outlined in Labor Code section 2699.3.

9 21. Plaintiffs were employed by Defendants, and the alleged violations were committed
10 against them in relation to their employment. Plaintiffs are aggrieved employees as defined by Labor
11 Code section 2699(c). Other employees, current and former, are also aggrieved employees in that
12 one or more of the alleged violations were committed against them during their employment with
13 Defendants from the period between one year before filing this complaint and date of final judgment.

14 22. Under Labor Code section 2699(g), aggrieved employees may recover the civil
15 penalty on behalf of themselves and other current or former employees against whom one or more of
16 the alleged violations was committed. Any employee who prevails in any such action will be entitled
17 to an award of reasonable attorney’s fees and costs.

18 23. Under Labor Code section 2699.3, an aggrieved employee may pursue a civil action
19 under PAGA after these requirements have been met:

- 20 a. The aggrieved employee or representative gave online notice to the LWDA and gave
21 notice by certified mail to the employer (“Employee’s Notice”) of the specific
22 provisions of the Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and
23 theories to support the alleged violations;
24 b. The aggrieved employee paid a filing fee of \$75 to the LWDA; and
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1 c. If the alleged violation(s) is not cured within 65 calendar days of the postmark date of
2 the notice sent by the aggrieved employee or representative, the employee may
3 commence a civil action pursuant to Section 2699.
4

5 24. On August 23, 2017, Sarmiento provided online notice to the LWDA and notice by
6 certified mail to Defendant Sealy, Inc. of specific provisions of the Labor Code alleged to have been
7 violated by Defendants, including the facts and theories to support the alleged violations.

8 25. Sarmiento paid the \$75 filing fee to the LWDA.

9 26. On or about December 4, 2017, Sarmiento provided online notice to the LWDA and
10 notice by certified mail to Defendants of his amended claims of the specific provisions of the Labor
11 Code alleged to have been violated by Defendants, including the facts and theories to support the
12 alleged violations.
13

14 27. The LWDA has not provided Sarmiento with written notice that it intends to
15 investigate the alleged violations of the Labor Code. Accordingly, Sarmiento has satisfied the
16 administrative prerequisites under Labor Code § 2699.3 to bring a civil action to recover civil
17 penalties under the PAGA, in addition to other remedies.
18

19 28. On December 26, 2017, Chavez provided online notice to the LWDA and notice by
20 certified mail to Defendants of specific provisions of the Labor Code alleged to have been violated by
21 Defendants, including the facts and theories to support the alleged violations.

22 29. Chavez paid the \$75 filing fee to the LWDA.

23 30. The LWDA has not provided Chavez with written notice that it intends to investigate
24 the alleged violations of the Labor Code. Accordingly, Chavez has satisfied the administrative
25 prerequisites under Labor Code § 2699.3 to bring a civil action to recover civil penalties under
26 PAGA, in addition, to other remedies.
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1 31. Under Labor Code § 2699.3(d), the time to commence a civil action to recover
2 penalties under the PAGA is tolled during the 65-day exhaustion period.

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4 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

5 32. Plaintiffs sue, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, as a class
6 action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. The class which Plaintiffs seek to represent is:

7 All employees of Defendants in the State of California within four years preceding filing
8 the complaint to the time of final judgment.

9 33. Within the foregoing class, Plaintiffs seeks to ascertain and represent the following
10 four subclasses:

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- 12 a. All nonexempt employees of Defendants within four years preceding the filing of
 - 13 the complaint until final judgment;
 - 14 b. All nonexempt employees of Defendants who concurrently worked at two or more
 - 15 positions for Defendants with differently hourly rates of pay under the union contract
 - 16 within the four years preceding the filing of this complaint until final judgment; and
 - 17 c. All nonexempt employee who worked more than 12 hours a day within the four years
 - 18 preceding the filing of this complaint until final judgment; and
 - 19 d. All employees who were terminated from their employment with Defendants and all
 - 20 employees who resigned from their employment with Defendants within four years
 - 21 preceding the filing of this complaint until final judgment.
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 - 23

24 34. The class of persons within the State of California is so numerous that joinder of all
25 members is impracticable, and the disposition of their claims in a class action is a benefit to the
26 parties and to the Court. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that
27 Defendants employ and employed in California no less than 500 persons who satisfy the class
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1 definition. Although the exact number and identity of these putative class members is not known,
2 they can be identified in Defendants' records through coordinated discovery under this class action.

3 35. This action may be maintained as a class under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23
4 because the questions of law and fact which are common to class members predominate over
5 questions affecting only individual members and because a class action is superior to other available
6 methods for adjudicating the controversy.
7

8 36. There are numerous common questions of law and fact arising out of Defendants'
9 conduct.

10 37. Common questions of law and fact predominate over questions affecting only
11 individual members of the class. The predominating common or class-wide questions of law and fact
12 include:
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- 14 a. Whether Defendants' failure to pay wages, without abatement or reduction,
15 under the California Labor Code, was willful;
- 16 b. Whether Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and Class members overtime as
17 required by Labor Code § 510.
- 18 c. Whether Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and Class Members all the wages
19 due them in violation of Labor Code § 223, 1194 and 1194.2;
- 20 d. Whether Defendants failed to pay all wages earned by Plaintiffs and Class
21 Members owed upon their discharge or resignation in violation of California
22 Labor Code Sections 201-203; and
- 23 e. Whether Plaintiffs and Class Members received inaccurate pay statements from
24 their employer.
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1 38. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the members of the class all of whom
2 have sustained and/or will sustain damage and injury as a proximate and/or legal result of
3 Defendants' violations of Labor Code sections 201-203, 223, 226(a), 510, 1194, 1194.2, the applicable
4 wage order, and Business and Profession Code Section 17200 *et seq.* Plaintiffs' claims are typical of
5 those of the class because Defendants subjected Plaintiffs and each member of the class to the same
6 Labor Code and Business and Profession Code violations alleged.

8 39. The defenses of Defendants, if such defenses apply, are applicable to the whole class
9 and are not distinguishable as to the proposed class members.

10 40. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of all members of the class,
11 and has retained attorneys with extensive experience in employment litigation, including class and
12 other representative actions. Plaintiffs have no interests that conflict with those of the class.
13 Plaintiffs can fairly and adequately protect the interests of all members of the class because it is in her
14 best interest to prosecute the claims alleged to obtain the full compensation due to them.

15 41. A class action is superior to any other method available for fairly and efficiently
16 adjudicating the controversy because:
17

- 18 a. Joinder of individual class members is not practical;
- 19 b. Litigating the claims of individual class members is unnecessarily costly and
20 burdensome and deters individual claims;
- 21 c. Litigating the claims of individual class member creates a risk of inconsistent or
22 varying adjudications that will establish incompatible standards of conduct for
23 Defendants;
- 24 d. Class members still working for Defendants may fear retaliation if they bring
25 individual claims;
- 26 individual claims;
- 27 individual claims;
- 28

1 e. Class members will be discouraged from pursuing individual claims because the
2 damages available to them are relatively small; and

3 f. Public policy encourages the use of class actions to enforce employment laws
4 and protect individuals who, by their subordinate position, are vulnerable.
5

6 42. Judicial economy will be served by maintenance of this lawsuit as a class action. To
7 process numerous, virtually identical, individual cases will significantly increase the expense on the
8 Court, the class members and Defendants, all while unnecessarily delaying the resolution of this
9 matter. There are no obstacles to effective and efficient management by this Court of this lawsuit as
10 a class action, and doing so will provide multiple benefits to the litigating parties including, but not
11 limited to, efficiency, economy, and uniform adjudication with consistent results.
12

13 43. Notice of a certified class action and any result or resolution of the litigation can be
14 provided to class members by mail, e-mail, publication, or such other methods of notice as deemed
15 appropriate by the Court.
16

17 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**
18 **(Violation of Labor Code § 510)**
19 **(Failure to Pay Overtime-Class and PAGA)**
20 **Against Defendants**

21 44. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference Paragraphs 1 through 43 above as
22 though fully set forth.

23 45. Pursuant to Labor Code section 510, “[e]ight hours of labor constitutes a day’s work.
24 Any work in excess of eight hours in one workday and any work in excess of 40 hours in any one
25 workweek and the first eight hours worked on the seventh day of work in any one workweek shall be
26 compensated at the rate of no less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for an
27 employee. Any work in excess of 12 hours in one day shall be compensated at the rate of no less
28 than twice the regular rate of pay for an employee. In addition, any work in excess of eight hours on

1 any seventh day of a workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate
2 of pay of an employee.”

3 46. During the relevant time period, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and other putative
4 class members and aggrieved employees the overtime wages due and owing.

5 47. Plaintiffs, putative class members and aggrieved employees have been harmed by
6 Defendants failure pay them overtime that was due to them.

7 48. Labor Code § 1194(a) provides:

8 (a) Notwithstanding any agreement to work for a lesser wage, any employee
9 receiving less than the legal minimum wage or the legal overtime
10 compensation applicable to the employee is entitled to recover in a civil action
11 the unpaid balance of the full amount of this minimum wage or overtime
12 compensation, including interest thereon, reasonable attorneys’ fees, and costs
13 of suit.

14 49. Plaintiffs and putative class members have been injured and request relief. Plaintiffs
15 also requests the civil penalties, attorney’s fees, and costs recoverable in a civil action brought by an
16 aggrieved employee on behalf of themselves and, as a proxy for the LWDA, on behalf of Defendants’
17 other current and former employees.

18 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**
19 **(Violation of Labor Code § 223)**
20 **(Payment of Secret Rate – PAGA and Class Claims)**
21 **Against Defendants**

22 50. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by refence Paragraphs 1 through 43 above as
23 though fully set forth.

24 51. Pursuant to Labor Code § 223, “[w]here any statute or contract requires an employer
25 to maintain the designated wage scale, it shall be unlawful to secretly pay a lower wage while
26 purporting to pay the wage designated by statute or contract.”

1 52. Pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement between Defendants and
2 Communication Workers of America, employees received varied hourly rates based on their job
3 assignments.

4 53. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs and other class members a higher hourly rate of pay
5 when they performed tasks that dictated a higher hourly rate of pay as required by the collective
6 bargaining agreement.

7 54. Plaintiffs and the other class members have been harmed by Defendants breach of the
8 collective bargaining agreement.

9 55. Labor Code § 218.5 provides that in any action for nonpayment of wages, the court
10 shall award reasonable attorney's fees and costs to the prevailing party if any party to the action
11 requests attorney's fees and costs upon the initiation of the action.

12 56. Plaintiffs requests back wages for themselves and the other putative class members,
13 attorney's fees under Labor Code § 218.5 and they request the civil penalties, attorney's fees, and
14 costs recoverable in a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of themselves and, as
15 a proxy for the LWDA, on behalf of Defendants' other current and former employees.

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19 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**
20 **VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE §222**
21 **(Withholding of Wages- PAGA and CLASS)**
22 **Against All Defendants**

23 57. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference Paragraphs 1 through 43 above as
24 though fully set forth.

25 58. Pursuant to Labor Code § 222 "[i]t shall be unlawful, in case of any wage agreement
26 arrived at through collective bargaining, either willfully or unlawfully or with intent to defraud an
27 employee, a competitor, or any other person, to withhold from said employee any part of the wage
28 agreed upon."

65. During the relevant time period, Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiffs and Class Members who are no longer employed by Defendants their wages, earned and unpaid, either at the time of discharge, or within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ.

66. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiffs and those class members who are no longer employed by Defendants their wages earned and unpaid at the time of discharge, or within seventy-two (72) hours of their leaving Defendants' employ, violates California Labor Code §§ 201 and 202.

67. California Labor Code § 203 provides that if an employer willfully fails to pay wages owed, under §§ 201 and 202, then the wages of the employee will continue as a penalty from the due date, at the same rate until paid or until an action is commenced, but wages will not continue for over thirty (30) days.

68. Plaintiff and class members may recover from Defendants the statutory penalty wages for each day they were not paid, up to a thirty (30) day maximum under California Labor Code § 203.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION
VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS CODE §§ 17200, et seq.
(Against All Defendants)

69. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference Paragraphs 1 through 43 above as though fully set forth.

70. Defendants' conduct, as alleged, has been, and continues to be, unfair, unlawful, and harmful to Plaintiffs, other class members, and to the general public, Plaintiffs seeks to enforce important rights affecting the public interest within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure §1021.5.

71. Defendants' activities, as alleged here, are violations of California law, and constitute unlawful business acts and practices in violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.

72. A violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 et seq. may be predicated on violating state or federal law. Defendants' policies and practices of requiring hourly

1 paid employees, including Plaintiffs and Class Members, to work overtime without paying them
 2 proper compensation violate California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1194. Defendants' violations of the
 3 collective bargaining agreement violate California Labor Code §§ 223, 224. Defendants' failures to
 4 provide Plaintiffs and Class Members their final wages in a timely fashion violate California Labor
 5 Code §§ 201, 202. Plaintiffs and Class Members have been injured by Defendants' unlawful
 6 business acts and practices as alleged, including but not limited to the loss of money or property.

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 8 73. Under California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 et seq., Plaintiffs and
 9 putative Class Members are entitled to restitution of the wages withheld and retained by Defendants
 10 during a period that commences four years prior to filing this complaint; a permanent injunction
 11 requiring Defendants to pay all outstanding wages due to Plaintiffs and Class Members; an award of
 12 attorneys' fees under California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5 and other applicable laws; and an
 13 award of costs.
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 16 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
 17 **VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE § 226(a)**
 18 **(Failure to Furnish Complete and Accurate Itemized Wage Statements – PAGA and CLASS)**
 19 **(Against Defendants)**

20 74. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 43 above as
 21 though fully set forth.

22 75. Under Labor Code section 226(a), "every employer shall, semimonthly or at the time
 23 of each payment of wages, furnish each of his or her employees, either as a detachable part of the
 24 check, draft, or voucher paying the employee's wages, or separately when the wages are paid by
 25 personal check or cash, an accurate itemized statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2)
 26 total hours worked by the employee, except for an employee whose compensation is solely based on
 27 salary and who is exempt from payment of overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any
 28 applicable order of the Industrial Welfare Commission . . . (5) net wages earned... (8) the name and

1 address of the legal entity that is the employer.... and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during
2 the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee.”

3 76. An employee suffering injury as the result of a knowing and intentional failure by an
4 employer to comply with Labor Code section 226(a) may recover the greater of all actual damages or
5 fifty dollars (\$50) for the initial pay period in which a violation occurs and one hundred dollars
6 (\$100) per employee for each violation in a subsequent pay period, not to exceed the aggregate
7 penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000), and is entitled to an award of costs and reasonable
8 attorney’s fees. Labor Code § 226(e)(1).
9

10 77. An employee is deemed to suffer injury if the employer fails to provide a wage
11 statement or if the employer fails to provide accurate and complete information as required by any
12 one or more items (1) through (9), inclusive, of subdivision (a) of Labor Code section 226 and the
13 employee cannot promptly and easily determine from the wage statement alone one or more of the
14 following: (i) the gross wages or net wages paid to the employee during the pay period or any of the
15 other information required to be provided on the itemized wage statement under items (2) to (4),
16 inclusive, (6), and (9) of subdivision (a); (ii) which deductions the employer made from gross wages
17 to determine the net wages paid to the employee during the pay period; (iii) the name and address of
18 the employer and, if the employer is a farm labor contractor, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section
19 1682, the name and address of the legal entity that secured the services of the employer during the
20 pay period; and (iv) the name of the employee and only the last four digits of his or her social
21 security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number. Labor
22 Code § 226(e)(2)(A), (e)(2)(B)(i)-(iv). “Promptly and easily determine” means a reasonable person
23 would be able to readily ascertain the information without reference to other documents or
24 information. Labor Code § 226(e)(2)(C).
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78. During the relevant time period(s), Defendants failed to provide accurate and complete itemized wage statements to Plaintiffs and other former and current employees of Defendants, in violation of Labor Code section 226(a).

79. Wherefore, Plaintiffs and other aggrieved employees have been injured and request damages. Plaintiffs also request the civil penalties, attorney's fees, and costs recoverable in a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of herself and, as a proxy for the LWDA, on behalf of Defendants' other current and former employees.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION
VIOLATION OF LABOR CODE SECTION 923
(Collective Action Retaliation – Individual Claims)
Against All Defendants

80. Plaintiffs incorporate the allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 43 above as though fully set forth.

81. Labor Code § 923 provides that:

In the interpretation and application of this chapter, the public policy of this State is declared as follows:

Negotiation of terms and conditions of labor should result from voluntary agreement between employers and employees. Governmental authority has permitted and encouraged employers to organize in the corporate and other forms of capital control. In dealing with such employers, the individual unorganized worker is helpless to exercise actual liberty of contract and to protect his freedom of labor, and thereby to obtain acceptable terms and conditions of employment. Therefore it is necessary that the individual workman have full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of his own choosing to negotiate the terms and conditions of his employment, and that he shall be free from the interference, restraint, or coercion of employers of labor, or their agents, in the designation of such representatives or in self-organization or in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection.

82. At the May 26, 2017 town hall meeting, Plaintiffs engaged in concerted activities to negotiate the terms and conditions of their employment for their mutual aid or protection. As the

1 83. Defendants terminated Plaintiffs' employment in retaliation for their concerted
2 activities to negotiate the terms and conditions of their employment.

3 84. The acts taken toward Plaintiffs were carried out by and/or ratified by Defendants
4 and/or managing agents/employees of Defendants acting in an oppressive, fraudulent and malicious
5 manner to injure or damage Plaintiffs, thereby justifying an award of punitive damages.
6

7 84. As a direct and proximate of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered damages
8 and requests relief.

9
10 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
11 **WRONGFUL DISCHARGE IN VIOLATION OF PUBLIC POLICY**
12 **(Against All Defendants)**

13 85. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 43 by reference, as
14 though fully set forth.

15 86. Jurisdiction is invoked in this court pursuant to the public policy and common law of
16 the State of California, pursuant to the case of *Tameny v. Atlantic Richfield Company* (1980) 27
17 Cal.3d 167 and *Roko v. Liger* (1990) 52 Cal.3d 65.

18 87. Under California law, there are fundamental and well-established public policies
19 prohibiting retaliation against employees for engaging in protected activities. Said public policies are
20 embodied in the Constitution of the State of California and in California statutes, particularly
21 California Labor Code § 923.

22 88. Plaintiffs were employed by Defendants.

23 89. Defendants discharged Plaintiffs.

24 90. Plaintiffs' concerted activities were substantial motivating reasons for Defendants'
25 decision to discharge Plaintiffs.
26
27
28

12. Pre-judgment interest;

13. Costs under Labor Code §§ 218.5, 2699, 1194;

14. Attorneys' fees under Labor Code §§ 218.5, 226, 1194 and 2699;

15. Civil and statutory penalties under Labor Code §§ 226.3, 558, 1197.1, 2699(a),
2699(g); and

16. This Court award such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: March 31, 2018

BURTON EMPLOYMENT LAW

By: //ss// Jocelyn Burton //ss//
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